



It's Your Call

In fact it's God's call. Through baptism, God has called us all to be ministers in the church. But from among those called to be the body of Christ, God specifically calls some to become ordained pastors and diaconal ministers.

The church also gets into the act. Unless the church calls through one of its congregations or agencies, a person cannot be ordained or consecrated in the Lutheran church. Congregations also play an important part in helping fellow members discern God's call. Research shows that the major factor in leading a person into ordained or diaconal ministry is the encouragement and support of their pastor and home congregation.

But how do you discern if this is your call? Personal wrestling and prayer are an important part of it. God's Spirit must move in the depth of a person's being for her or him to hear that it is their call.

This month the ELCIC is again holding a programme called *It's Your Call*. Its purpose is to identify people who have the gifts and possibly the call to become ordained or diaconal ministers in the church. Today you are being asked to nominate persons you think should consider seriously that God is saying to them *It's Your Call*. As you think about who might have the gifts for ordained or diaconal ministry, refer to the candidate's profile on the other side of this insert. You might see gifts for ministry in youth or in people who are already well-established in careers. Your pastor will interview those nominated to ask them if she or he can forward their name to your Synod Office as a possible future candidate for ordained or diaconal ministry. Please play your part in this vital programme for our church.

CANDIDATE'S PROFILE

Here are some of the gifts that help to make good ordained pastors and diaconal ministers.

- Christ-centred love of God that is demonstrated in daily life
- Regularized devotional life
- Desire to serve God and the church
- Emotional maturity including self-awareness of strengths and weaknesses and the ability to deal with disappointment, criticism, anger.
- Love of all people as exhibited by compassion and acceptance
- Ability to relate to all kinds of people
- Ability to develop skills including time management, working with people, planning, visioning and communication
- Academic potential to study at an advanced level.

You can obtain a complete **Candidate's Profile** from your Synod Office.